

### REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was required among three inventions or groups of inventions, namely, Group I, claims 13-20 and 33-36; Group II, claims 3-6, 21-24 and 27-30; and Group III, claims 7-8, 25-26 and 31-32. According to the Examiner, the three groups define patentably distinct inventions thereby making restriction proper. Applicants were required to elect one of the three inventions for further prosecution in this application.

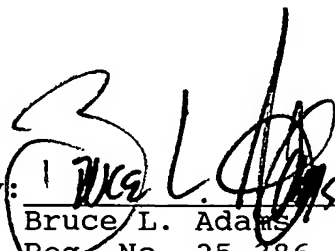
The Examiner has further linked independent claim 1 with inventions II and III and advised that upon allowability of claim 1, the restriction requirement as to inventions II and III will be withdrawn. The Examiner further advised that claims 2 and 9-12 will be included regardless of which invention group is elected.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants have provisionally elected the invention of Group II and submit that claims 1-6, 9-12, 21-24 and 27-30 are readable on the elected invention. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or applicants' decision to pursue the subject matter thereof in a continuing application.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable  
action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

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July 24, 2006

Date